

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT ACCOMPANYING
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION

REMARKS

1. *Status of the Application.* Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. The application stood under allowance as set forth in a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due mailed on July 13, 2005. For the reasons described below, the Request for Continued Examination accompanying this Preliminary Amendment was submitted in lieu of the issue fee payment.

2. *Request for Continued Examination (RCE).* An RCE is being filed concurrently with this submission to correct errors in the application discovered by the Assignee only after issuance of the Notice of Allowance.

It is to be recognized that the instant application was filed as a National Stage counterpart to a prior PCT application number PCT/CH03/00197, which application was originally submitted in the French language. In due course, an English-language translation of the parent PCT application was prepared and submitted to the U.S. Patent & Trademark Office upon the filing of the instant U.S. application.

Upon review of the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, the Assignee identified what appear to be incorrect translations of at least one word used at various places in the specification and claims. The resulting wording may have led the Examiner to a misunderstanding of the claimed invention.

At certain locations in the specification and claims of the parent PCT application, the French word "épousent" was used, and in the English-language translation, this word was translated to "espouse." Although a dictionary gives this translation¹, it is submitted that the particular and intended meaning of the word "épousent" in the context of the present application does not correspond to the English-language "espouse."

The unlocking position (Figures 2a, 2b, 2c) shows the best illustration of the

¹ See, Louis DeVries, *French-English Science and Technology Dictionary*, Fourth Edition, McGraw Hill, 1976, p. 197, a copy of which being attached hereto, which equates the French "épousent" to "to espouse, marry, take the form of, follow."

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meaning of the word "épouse", which is that the wings (40) take on or conform to the contour of the external diameter D of the rod allowing the rod to be pushed in on the frame or pulled out.

With respect to the locking position, Figures 1a, 1b and 1c show that the same wording as the one used about the unlocking position cannot be used, because in the first described embodiment, the wings don't take on the contour of the internal diameter d . Such a position would only correspond to the second embodiment that is claimed in claims 7 and 14-16.

In order to clarify this part of the claim 1, we suggest to precise that the wings are at least partly inscribed in the space comprised between the external diameter D and the internal diameter d . This is clearly shown in the drawings and this is also obvious for those skilled in the art that this is the purpose of the invention, when reading the preamble of claim 1: "a first position, called the locking position, in which the translation movement of said rod (12) is limited by the engagement of the locking piece (22) in the groove (14)".

For similar reasons, the word "espouse" has been replaced by "take on" in claims 7 and 14-16.

Furthermore, the Specification has also been slightly modified with respect to above-mentioned amendments.

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been added by way of the amendments proposed herein.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Assignee respectfully submits that each of the claims now pending in the application is allowable, and that the application as a whole is in proper form and condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that the application can be placed in even better condition for allowance, he or she is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 12-OCT-2005

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épirrhize

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épurateur

épirrhize, épirrhisous.
 épiscarcine, *f.* episcarcine.
 épisépale, episepalous.
 épispastique, epispastic.
 épisperme, *m.* epispERM, the outer covering of the seed.
 épispermique, embryo deprived of endosperm, exalbuminous.
 épisser, to splice.
 épistaminal, growing on the stamens, as hairs.
 épistaminé, gynandrous.
 épister, to reduce to paste (by crushing).
 épisternum, *m.* episternum.
 épistome, *m.* epistome, nasus.
 épistrophie, *f.* epistrophy.
 épiteospore, *f.* uredospore, urediniospore.
 épithalle, *m.* epithallus, the cortical layer of lichens.
 épithalame, *m.* epithalamium, marriage ode.
 épithécium, *m.* epithécium.
 épithélial, -aux, epithelial.
 épithélioïde, epithelioid.
 épithélioma, *m.* epithelioma (epithelial cancer).
 épithélium, epithelium, outicle.
 épithème, *m.* epithem.
 épithète, *f.* epithet.
 épitrope, epitropous, anatrope (ovule).
 épizotique, epizotic.
 épizootie, *f.* epizootic disease.
 épizootique, epizootic.
 épiluchage, *m.* picking, peeling, paring, weeding, thinning, scrutiny.
 épilucher, to pick, peel, clean, weed, scrutinize, examine.
 épiluchures, *f. pl.* pickings, leavings, parings, refuse.
 épinter, to break the point of.
 éponge, *f.* sponge, capelbow (horse); — de platine, platinum sponge.
 épongeage, *m.* sponging.
 éponger, to sponge.
 époque, *f.* epoch, time, period, era, season; — de la mue, moulting time; — de passage des oiseaux, time of migrations; — du rut, rutting time; — glaciale, ice age.
 épouillage, delousing.
 épouse, *f.* spouse, wife.
 épousée, *f.* bride.

épouser, to espouse, marry, take the form of, follow.
 époussetage, *m.* dusting.
 épousseter, to dust.
 épousseteux, -euse, dusting, dust-removing.
 époussetoir, *m.* small dusting brush.
 époussette, *f.* duster, dust brush, dustcloth.
 épouti, *m.* burl, filth (in wool).
 époutier, époutir, to burl (cloth), clean, pick.
 épouvantable, frightful, dreadful.
 épouvantail, *m.* scarecrow.
 épouvante, *f.* terror, fright.
 épouvanter, to frighten, scare, terrify, dismay.
 époux, *m.* spouse, husband.
 épreignant, pressing (out).
 épreindre, to squeeze, press (out), express.
 épreint, squeezed, pressed (out).
 épreuve, *f.* test, trial, experiment, proof, testing, assay, essay; — à chaud, hot test; — à froid, cold test; — à outrance, resistance or breaking test; — de cassure, breaking or fracture test; — de chaleur, heat test; — de pression, pressure test; — de traction, tensile or tension test; à l'—, on trial; à l'— de, proof (against); à l'— de l'eau, waterproof; à l'— du feu, fireproof; mettre à l'—, to assay, try, prove, test.
 éprouver, to test, try, prove, feel, experience, undergo.
 éprouvette, *f.* éprouvette, test tube, (narrow upright) cylinder, (liquor) gauge, gas bottle, test bar, test piece, small spoon (for fluxes), probe; — à dessécher les gaz, drying cylinder, drying bottle; — divisée, — graduée, graduated cylinder.
 épuisable, exhaustible.
 épuisant, exhausting.
 épuise, *f.* — volante, pumping station.
 épuisé, exhausted, impoverished, spent, drained, worn out, out of print.
 épuisement, *m.* exhaustion, draining, fainting, impoverishment of the soil, thinning out (of bacteria).
 épuiser, to exhaust, extract, spend, drain, use up; s'—, to waste, wear out, become exhausted.
 épulpeur, *m.* pulper (to extract beet juice).
 épuratein, *m.* purifier, scrubber, refiner, filter, cleaner, knotter, jog knotter.
 épurateur, purifying, refining, cleaning.